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Link to Dept. of Labor News Release 03/23/16:

LABOR DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES UP TO \$15M TO AID RECOVERY EFFORT
FOLLOWING THE WATER CONTAMINATION CRISIS IN FLINT, MICHIGAN

Federal grant to pay for 400 temporary workers in Flint

By Todd Spangler, Detroit Free Press 03/23/16 6:10 PM

The U.S. Labor Department on Wednesday announced an initial grant of \$7.5 million to employ about 400 temporary workers in Flint for up to a year to help respond to the ongoing crisis of high levels of lead detected in tap water there.

Feds make \$7.5M available to Flint for water recovery

By Keith Laing, Detroit News 03/23/16 5:58 PM

The Obama administration is making \$7.5 million available immediately to workers in Flint to train them to assist with the city's recovery from its water crisis, the Department of Labor announced on Wednesday.

Flint water crisis could net city \$15M in fed labor grants

By Jiquanda Johnson, MLIVE 03/23/16 4:44 PM

The U.S. Department of Labor announced up to \$15 million in grants to help provide temporary jobs to assist with Flint's water crisis recovery. Initially, \$7.5 million under the National Dislocated Worker Grant program will be released to help fund various jobs including delivering water, water filters, replacement cartridges and lead-testing kits to Flint families. The funding will also provide career and training services.

Task Force: Most of the Blame for the Flint Water Crisis Belongs to the State and City, Not the EPA

By Kevin Drum, Mother Jones 03/23/16 5:40 PM

A task force appointed by Michigan Governor Rick Snyder has issued its final report on the Flint water crisis. Here's the executive summary: The Flint water crisis is a story of government failure, intransigence, unpreparedness, delay, inaction, and environmental injustice. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) failed in its fundamental responsibility to effectively enforce drinking water regulations. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) failed to adequately and promptly act to protect public health. Both agencies, but principally the MDEQ, stubbornly worked to discredit and dismiss others' attempts to bring the issues of unsafe water, lead contamination, and increased cases of Legionellosis (Legionnaires' disease) to light. With the City of Flint under emergency management, the Flint Water Department rushed unprepared into full-time operation of the Flint Water Treatment Plant, drawing water from a highly corrosive source without the use of corrosion control.

Task force slams Flint crisis, demands review of emergency manager law

By Paul Egan & Matthew Dolan, Detroit Free Press 03/23/16 5:37 PM

A task force appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder issued a hard-hitting report on the Flint drinking water public health crisis, slamming the catastrophe as a story of "government failure, intransigence, unpreparedness, delay, inaction and environmental injustice." The 116-page report said the state's controversial emergency manager law contributed to the lead contamination crisis by removing governmental checks and balances. It called for a review of the law and said Snyder should look for alternatives to the current approach that keeps locally elected officials more engaged.

Flint water task force says investigation into new KWA pipeline needed

By Roberto Acosta, MLIVE 03/23/16 5:34 PM

The county official who spearheaded efforts for a new pipeline being built to bring water to Flint said he welcomes a state task force's call for an investigation into the genesis of the pipeline. In a report issued Wednesday, the Flint Water Advisory Task Force said there should be an investigative review of the development and approval of the Karegnondi Water Authority and the city of Flint's commitments to water purchases.

Michigan task force blames state, emergency manager law for Flint crisis

By RT 03/23/16 5:07 PM

Responsibility for the Flint water crisis lies primarily with Michigan's state government and the emergency managers that were placed in charge of the city, according to a new report calling the scandal "a clear case of environmental injustice."

Task force: Flint water crisis was "environmental injustice," and the state is to blame

By Josh Hakala, Michigan Radio 03/23/16 5:00 PM

The Flint Water Advisory Task Force released its final report after a five-month investigation into the Flint water crisis, and according to co-chair Ken Sikkema, "It doesn't paint a very pretty picture about certain state agencies, and even local agencies."

State of Michigan 'fundamentally accountable' for Flint water crisis, inquiry finds

By Chicago Tribune 03/23/16 3:57 PM

The state of Michigan is "fundamentally accountable" for Flint's lead-contaminated water crisis because of decisions made by its environmental regulators and state-appointed emergency managers who controlled the city, an investigatory task force concluded Wednesday in a withering report.

Report: Snyder discussed Flint lead in summer 2015

By Chad Livengood, Detroit News 03/23/16 3:11 PM

Gov. Rick Snyder and senior staff discussed Flint water issues, including lead, during an undated midsummer 2015 meeting, according to a Flint water task force report released Wednesday.

Flint Investigation Lays Blame For Water Crisis Squarely On The State

By Bryce Covert, Think Progress 03/23/16 3:03 PM

An investigatory panel tasked by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder (R) laid the blame for the contamination of Flint's drinking water with lead and other toxins on the state in a final report released Wednesday. "[T]he state is fundamentally accountable for what happened in Flint," it states. "The Flint water crisis is a story of government failure, intransigence, unpreparedness, delay, inaction, and environmental injustice."

Task force: EM decisions led to Flint crisis

By Jim Lynch, Chad Livengood & Jacob Carah, Detroit News 03/23/16 3:00 PM [video clip]

Gov. Rick Snyder's own Flint water task force issued a stinging report Wednesday, accusing his administration and others in government of "failure, intransigence, unpreparedness, delay, inaction and environmental injustice" in the contamination of Flint's water supply.

Flint water task force calls for review of emergency manager law

By Gary Ridley, MLIVE 03/23/16 1:55 PM

The state's emergency manager law needs to be reviewed following the Flint water crisis, according to the governor-appointed task force charged with investigating the city's water woes. The task force's final report, released Wednesday, March 23, placed a bulk of the blame for the city's water crisis at the feet of state agencies charged with protecting the public's health.

Michigan Officials Responsible for Flint Water Crisis, Panel Finds

By Cameron McWhirter, Wall Street Journal 03/23/16 1:55 PM

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder and other state officials are "fundamentally accountable" for the lead contamination of Flint's water supply, according to a report Wednesday from a panel appointed by the governor to investigate the crisis.

Flint water task force places blame for crisis with the state

By Gary Ridley, MLIVE 03/23/16 1:43 PM

Primary responsibility for the Flint water crisis lies with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, according to the final report of a governor-appointed task force examining the city's water woes. The report, released Wednesday, March 23, includes 36 findings and 44 recommendations for state and local officials following the crisis.

Michigan task force blames state government for Flint water crisis

By Timothy Cama, The Hill 03/23/16 1:27 PM

A task force appointed by Michigan's governor found that the state government is “fundamentally accountable” for Flint’s drinking water crisis. In a comprehensive report released Wednesday, the task force primarily blamed the state’s emergency-manager law that gave state-appointed managers wide-ranging authority over Flint’s affairs.

Flint water crisis was 'environmental injustice', governor's taskforce finds

By Ryan Felton, The Guardian 03/23/16 1:30 PM

State officials are primarily to blame for the city of Flint’s two-year water contamination crisis, a taskforce appointed by Michigan’s governor, Rick Snyder, concluded on Wednesday. Among those identified as responsible for the severe lead contamination of the city’s water were the governor’s office, the state environmental agency and emergency managers appointed by Snyder to run Flint over a four-year period when key decisions that caused the crisis were made.

‘Series of Government Failures’ Blamed for Flint Water Crisis

By Josh Sanburn, TIME 03/23/16 1:20 PM [video clip]

Michigan state agencies overseen by Gov. Rick Snyder and a series of emergency managers appointed by the governor are to blame for allowing contaminated water into Flint homes, according to a report released Wednesday. The findings—the most sweeping indictment to date of the role state officials played in creating the crisis—were released as part of the task force’s final report on Flint, where residents were exposed to lead in their drinking water for over a year even as officials were telling them it was safe to drink.

Independent Investigators: State Officials Mostly To Blame For Flint Water Crisis

By Merrit Kennedy, NPR 03/23/16 12:38 PM

"The Flint water crisis is a story of government failure, intransigence, unpreparedness, delay, inaction, and environmental injustice." That's how an independent task force opened its final report on the lead-tainted water crisis in Flint.

Investigators: State of Michigan "fundamentally accountable" for Flint water crisis

By WWLP News 22 03/23/16 10:52 AM

An investigation has found that the state of Michigan is "fundamentally accountable" for Flint's lead-contaminated water crisis because of decisions made by its environmental regulators and state-appointed emergency managers. A task force appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder released a final report Wednesday saying failures, intransigence and delays within all levels of government — particularly in his administration — led Flint water users to be "needlessly and tragically" exposed to toxic levels of lead and other hazards.

Flint Water Crisis Inquiry Finds State Ignored Warning Signs

By Julie Bosman, New York Times 03/23/16

An independent panel investigating the Flint water crisis laid blame directly on Gov. Rick Snyder's office, concluding that inept state employees in charge of supervising water quality and state-appointed emergency managers ignored mounting problems with the city water supply and stubbornly disregarded signs of widespread contamination. The task force, which described the effects of the crisis as "long-lasting," also concluded that environmental injustice had contributed to the government's slow-footed response to complaints from Flint residents about the foul and discolored water that was making them sick.

Michigan state officials accountable in Flint water crisis: inquiry

By Ben Klayman, Reuters 03/23/16

A task force appointed by Michigan's governor said on Wednesday state officials showed stubbornness, lack of preparation, delay and inaction in failing to prevent a health crisis in the

city of Flint caused by lead contamination in the drinking water. There were failures on all levels of government, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, a report from the task force said. However, the report highlighted failures of state agencies, especially the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), and said the state was "fundamentally accountable" for what happened.

Inquiry: State 'Fundamentally Accountable' for Flint Crisis

By David Eggert & Mike Householder (AP) for US News & World Report 03/23/16 11:17 AM

The state of Michigan is "fundamentally accountable" for Flint's lead-contaminated water crisis because of decisions made by its environmental regulators and state-appointed emergency managers who controlled the city, an investigatory task force concluded Wednesday in a withering report.

Flint Water Crisis Inquiry: Black Citizens 'Disproportionately Affected' by Crisis

By Jayce Wagner, InQuisitr 03/23/16

The Flint water crisis caused "long-lasting" and "disproportionate" damage to African-American neighborhoods in Flint, Michigan, says the 116-page report released today by the Flint Water Crisis task force. Confirming what many critics have long suspected about the Flint water crisis, the report details how black neighborhoods suffered "disproportionately" compared to white neighborhoods, and how blame can be laid at every level of local, state, and federal government.

Investigatory Task Force Finds Mich. Government 'Fundamentally Accountable' for Flint's Water-Contamination Crisis

By Breanna Edwards, The Root 03/23/16 11:53 AM

An investigatory task force has found the state of Michigan "fundamentally accountable" for Flint's water-contamination crisis, pointing to the decisions made by the state's environmental regulators and state-appointed emergency managers who controlled the city, the Associated Press reports.

Flint task force report says Gov. Snyder relied on bad information from state agencies

By Rebecca Williams, Michigan Radio 03/23/16 11:21 AM [radio clip]

The Flint Water Advisory Task Force released its final report this morning. The report includes 44 recommendations. Gov. Snyder said in the press conference that the state is already working on 25 of those recommendations.

Auditor General: MDEQ misinterpreted lead and copper rule in Flint Water Crisis

By Stephanie Parkinson, NBC 25 News 03/22/16

Misinterpreting the lead and copper rule is what the state's auditor general concludes led to the Flint Water Crisis. But now a panel of state lawmakers, charged with investigating the water crisis, is demanding more from the auditor general. "What I am hearing here is there is a steady stream of instances where the DEQ interpreted the rule in the narrowest possible way, interpreted rules in ways that would be less protective of public health," said Rep. Jeff Irwin, (D) Ann Arbor. Tuesday the auditor general testified before the Joint Committee on the Flint Water Public Health Emergency. He claims the MDEQ was treating Flint as a new water system meaning they only had to test for lead and copper every six months, but given the findings even he suggested the MDEQ should have recognized a problem and done more.

Snyder's Flint task force report could be released today

By Paul Egan, Detroit Free Press 03/23/16 12:05 AM

The report of a task force Gov. Rick Snyder appointed to investigate the Flint drinking water crisis — whose work has already prompted the resignation of one Snyder cabinet minister — is expected to be made public as early as today. Snyder received a courtesy copy late Monday and the report "will be issued by the task force without any changes from the governor's office," Snyder spokesman Ari Adler said Tuesday.

Rep. Kildee

Kildee urges Congress to delay break until action on Flint water crisis aid

By Roberto Acosta, MLIVE 03/23/16 12:50 PM

U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee has urged Congress to hold off on a two-week recess until some action is taken on a federal aid package to aid in relief of the Flint water crisis. The Flint Township Congressman introduced the Families of Flint Act last month, a \$470 million package split 50-50 between state and federal dollars, to cover lead service line replacement, services for families exposed to lead, health monitoring, and economic development.

Flint lawmaker: No recess until Congress passes aid

By Devin Henry, The Hill 03/23/16 11:54 AM

The congressman who represents Flint, Mich., urged House members not to break for a two-week recess on Wednesday until they pass an aid package to address the city's contaminated water crisis. "[Flint residents] deserve help from the state, and they deserve help from their federal government," Rep. Dan Kildee (D) said in a floor speech Wednesday.

Other News

Lt. Governor supports funding for families affected by Flint water crisis

By Jiquanda Johnson, MLIVE 03/22/16 6:28 PM

Efforts continue to fund long term resources for people impacted by Flint's water crisis. "What about five years from now? What about 10 years from now? I really want the community to have the security that last beyond any term in office," said Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley. "What happens when the world moves on? What happens when Flint is no longer in the headlines?"

Stevie Wonder, Jon Connor performances to air during #JusticeForFlint special

By Roberto Acosta, MLIVE 03/22/16 5:55 PM

An hour-long special on the all-star #JusticeForFlint benefit concert is set to premiere nationally at 9 p.m. Tuesday, March 22 on Revolt TV. The special features footage from the Feb. 28 event at The Whiting Auditorium in Flint that included performances from music legend Steve Wonder, rapper Jon Connor, Royce Da 5'9, Janelle Monae, Musiq Soulchild, Vic Mensa and several others.

Flint water crisis: For young engineers, a lesson on the importance of listening

By National Science Foundation 03/23/16

Sheldon Masters, a former Virginia Tech Ph.D. student, says he used to think scientists and engineers should be like robots: "Emotionally unattached." But after attending a class entitled Engineering Ethics and the Public: Learning to Listen with dozens of other young engineers at

his university, he found his perspective changed.

Opinions

How race, class set the stage for Flint water crisis

By Kristen Jordan Shamus, Detroit Free Press 03/23/16 5:12 PM

Darryl Wilson is tired of fighting and scraping just to get what most Americans take for granted: clean, safe drinking water. He wants to leave Flint for a while so someone can replace the pipes and fixtures in his house and the city's lead and lead-soldered service lines that are leaching the poison into the water. But he doesn't have the money. He can't drive.

Republican dismantling of EPA affected agency's ability to respond to Flint water crisis

By Tom Zirpoli, Carroll County Times 03/23/16

It was fascinating to watch members of Congress question EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy during a congressional hearing about the water crisis in Flint, Michigan. Republican members of Congress said that they were shocked that the EPA was unable to force the state of Michigan to respond appropriately to lead in Flint's water supply while children were poisoned for over a year.

Flint, Michigan continues to pick up pieces after lead water crisis

By Owen Fairclough, CCTV America 03/22/16 [video clip]

More than 8,000 children, the most at-risk group, were exposed to lead-tainted tap water contamination after Flint, Michigan changed its water source to save money. Lawmakers have joined residents demanding the head of the Environmental Protection Agency and the state governor step down.

Water Contamination in Flint, Michigan, May Not Be Harmful to the Brain

By Nens Bolinan, Parent Herald 03/23/16

The high lead content in the potable water of the households in Flint, Michigan, has bothered residents concerned with the health of their families. But despite the contamination, it was

claimed that the lead content of the water will not cause damage to a person's brain. According to Scientific American, the contamination will not cause permanent damage to the "mental functions" of young individuals. It explained that the effects of the high levels of lead in the water can be cured through medical intervention.

ACLU reporter speaks on Flint water crisis

Iain Oldman, Point Park Globe 03/22/16

When Curt Guyette took a job as an investigative reporter with Michigan's ACLU branch, there was no way he could have known he would reveal one of the largest social and environmental crises in recent history. Guyette, the investigative reporter who exposed the drinking water crisis in Flint, Mich. last year, spoke Tuesday, March 15 at Point Park University's GRW Auditorium at University Center. The event was put on by Point Park's News Service and was co-sponsored by the Press Club of Western Pennsylvania, the Pittsburgh Black Media Federation and the Women's Press Club of Pittsburgh.

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